

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

File No. 23(156)/51-PM

Volume

1951

Ministry of

Department of PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Office SPECIAL SECTION

NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

Subject

Disposal of properties of Indian National Army in the far East.

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To be noted in Sectional Note Book
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PAPERS DESTROYED

S.Nos. 1-A, 2-A, 3-A, 4-A, 6-A, 8-A,
S.No.16-A U.O.Note No.D/S-8666, dated the 24th August,
1953, from PM's Sectt. to Shri Mohd. Yunus,
MEA.
S.No.17-A U.O.Note No.D.3788-8EA/53, dated the 27th
August, 1953, from Shri Mohd. Yunus,
MEA (SEA Br.) to PM's Sectt.
S.No.27-A Memo. No.2/53/19713/601(151), dated the
13th October, 1953, from Shri Mohd. Yunus,
US, MEA to PM's Sectt.
S.No.33-B Letter No.20/62/Accts, dated the 12th
April, 1954, from the Joint Secretary,
All-India I.N.A. Enquiry & Relief Committee
82, Daryaganj, Delhi to the President.
S.No.33-D Cutting from the Amrita Bazar Patrika,
dated the 3rd April, 1954-Property
Formerly held by I.N.A.-Custodian at
Singapore decides to Dispose of.
S.No.34-A Rajya Sabha's Starred Question No.
560, dated the 28th September, 1954.
S.No.34-B Note for Supplementaries.
S.No.35-A Lok Sabha Starred Question No.1501,
dated the 29th September, 1954.
S.No.35-B Note for Supplementaries.
S.No.37-A Lok Sabha Starred Question No.334, dated the
2nd August, 1955.
S.No.37-BCD Enclosures to S.No.37-A.

AND NOTES

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 23, 24,
25, 26 and 29.

1
Letter dt 22-1-51 from Shri JK Bhonsle 1A

2
UO. no. D-1496-CJK/51 dt 20.3.51 2A

3
Question and Answer for Parliament no 2639
dt 29-3-51 3A

4
Question and answer for Parliament no: 3295 dt
19-4-51 4A

5
Tel. no: 33 GS dt 28.4.51 from India Tokyo 5A

6
Tel. no: Primin -21557 dt 23.6.51 to ~~do~~ 6A

7
note dt 14.8.51 from Shri Sri Prakasa 7A

8
Tel. no: 30588 dt 23-9-51 to India, Tokyo 8A

9
Tel. no: 74 GS dt 25.9.51 from ~~do~~ 9A

10
UO no: 3337-PN dt 26.9.51 to Secy CR 10A

30
3

Mr. Hardial Singh of Singapore had some gold belonging to the INA, which was deposited in the Indian Overseas Bank Limited, Singapore, in PM's name. On the

30th June 1950, P.M. noted about it as follows:-

"Later, I was told that the Indian merchant, Mr. Hardial Singh of Singapore, had some gold belonging to the INA or the old 'Azad' Hind Government. I suggested that this sum be handed over to the Trust I had created. There was some difficulty and then I spoke to Lord Mountbatten who was Supreme Commander for South-East Asia then. He agreed not only about this sum, but about other sums also of a like nature that might be recovered.

Later, the Attorney General or someone else raised legal objections. I was under the impression that finally the money was obtained by the Trust, but I now find that all that happened was that the gold was deposited in the bank perhaps in my name, and later frozen by the Singapore authorities

There is the question of this gold which was in a sense given to me and desposited by me in the bank in 1946. There is a separate question of other INA funds. These two questions should be dealt with separately."

2. Our Representative has now informed us that the Indian Overseas Bank is prepared to deliver the gold to him on the production of a letter of authority from P.M.

3. The question at issue is whether we should accept this offer because it appears from a letter which we received as early as November 1946 from Indian Office, London, that this gold has been included in the list of INA/IIL funds held by the Custodian of Enemy Property in Singapore. Our Office in Singapore has also stated that the deposit in the bank in the name of PM was made under intimation to the Custodian. Therefore, even assuming that the bank is now prepared to give the gold to us, the Singapore Government might, if they come to know of it, object. Further, since it has been decided that the assets of the INA/IIL funds should be divided between India and Pakistan in the ratio of 2:1, Pakistan might claim a part of this gold in which case it might lead to embarrassment if we were to take charge of it in its entirety now.

4. This was discussed with C. S. who agreed that, if the bank were now willing to surrender the gold, we might take charge of it, sell it and amalgamate the sale proceeds with the funds intended for the Scholarship Trust which is already in Singapore. The Custodian of Enemy Property has no inherent right to this gold and at most his interest is confined to see that Pakistan gets a share out of it. That need not stand in our way because, if and when Pakistan claims it, we can tell them, as mentioned in PM's note above, that it is not really a part of the INA funds but given to PM and desposited by him in the bank. This is reinforced by the following statement in an enclosure to the India Office letter of 1946:-

"15 packets of gold weighing approximately 5634 grams desposited on the 6th April 1946, with the Indian Overseas Bank Limited, Singapore, by Mr. Hardial Singh,....

4
Mr. Hardial Singh, of No. 4 Battery Road,
in accordance with a request in writing
(dated 20th March 1946) made by Pandit
Jawaharlal Nehru. This gold is held in the
personal name of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,
and earmarked for the Indian Relief Committee
at the request of Mr. Hardial Singh."

If Pakistan still insists, we can then consider whether
a part of the sale proceeds should be given to them or
not.

5. Our Office in Singapore has said that Mr.
Hardial Singh himself has renounced all claims to the
gold.

6. If para 4 above is accepted, PM might sign a
letter of authority of which I have attached a draft for
consideration.

Sd/- V.M.M.Nair,
11/11/1953.

C.S.

Sd/- B.F.H.B.Tyabji
11/11/1953.

PM

31

I do not see why we should trouble ourselves about all kinds of legal implications and the like. We should go ahead and get possession of the gold and then we can consider what to do with it.

2. Therefore, all that is necessary is for the letter of authority to be sent to our Representative in Singapore and for him to present it to the bank and take possession of the gold. He should deposit the gold in his own name, as representing the Government of India, in that or some other bank and then await instructions from us as to what to do with it. The point is that possession should be obtained before further discussion.

3. I should like to know the value of this gold.

Letter of authority enclosed.

J. Nehru

(J. Nehru)
12.11.53

CS

23(156)

32 6

Ministry of External Affairs.
(SEA Section).

(Reference paragraph 3 of the Prime Minister's
minute dated 12th November 1953 on prepage)

.....

The value of the gold as estimated by the Indian Overseas Bank, Ltd., Singapore, is about Straits dollars 24,400 or Rs. 37,956 approximately, at the current rate obtaining in Singapore.

It'd.
14/11/1953.

Sd/- Mohd Yunus
17/11/1953.

DS(SEA)

Sd/- V.M.M.Nair
17/11/1953.

C.S.

Sd B.F.H.B.Tyabji
17/11/1953.

PM

Sd/- J.Nehru
17/11/1953.

DS(Sea).

PM's Sect. 410 no. DP ~~12485~~ 18/11/53.

By. No. 5600 P.M.
18/11/53

23(156)

36-A
7

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

This is a trivial matter which has already taken up a good deal of our time. The sum involved is small and we have no objection at all to its being used in consultation with Pakistan or, in the alternative, for Pakistan's share, if any, to be handed over to them for such use as they may like to put it to.

2. It is perfectly true that we have accepted the position that the gold forms part of the old I.N.A. and I.I.L. There is nothing tacit about it. It is quite implicit. I need not go into the past history of this matter as I have noted on this before.

3. I think that our Representative in Malaya might discuss this matter directly with the Custodian or with his boss and tell them that our sole interest in this money is that it should be properly utilised. That is why some kind of a trust fund was created for educational scholarships. We are perfectly prepared to associate Pakistan with it or to give Pakistan's share to it. There need be no difficulty about these matters. I have no objection to the assurance being given in writing by the bank as desired by the Custodian.

(J. Nehru)
12.1.55.

J.S. (Shri C.S.Jha)

23(15%)

33-A

8

New Delhi,
April 19, 1954.

My dear Bhonsle,

33-6

I have seen a copy of a letter which Shah Nawaz Khan has addressed to you about a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs which the Custodian Evacuee Property in Singapore has got with him and which was apparently the property of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind.

I have asked our Representative in Singapore to enquire about this. But there is no chance whatever of our getting this money for the I.N.A. Relief Fund or any other purpose. Similar questions arose in the past and all kinds of difficulties were pointed out. There was another much smaller sum which I managed to get after years of argument and on the understanding that this would be left in Singapore for scholarships to Indian students there. I appointed a small committee for the purpose.

g min no 30

The most we can do is to get this money also added to that Scholarship Fund. There is also the question of Pakistan sharing it.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. Jawaharlal Nehru.

ofc

Shri J.K. Bhonsle,
Deputy Minister for Rehabilitation,
New Delhi.

Copy to : Shri Balvantray Mehta,
General Secretary, AICC.

Copy to : Shri Shahnawaz Khan,
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of
Transport,
New Delhi.

23(156)

SHAH NAWAZ KHAN, M.P.

33-6
9
1, Canning Lane,
New Delhi,
Dt. the 6th April '54.

My dear General

As I told you verbally yesterday, it has appeared in various papers that the Custodian of Evacuee Property in Singapore has a sum of Rs 10 lakhs either in cash or in gold and jewels which is the property of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. I believe he has invited applications from persons who have any claim on this money. I feel that the I.N.A. Relief and Enquiry Committee are the only organisation who have any claim on this money. I would be grateful if you would kindly take up this case so that this money is taken over by our diplomatic representative in Singapore and sent to the President, I.N.A. Relief and Enquiry Committee in Delhi.

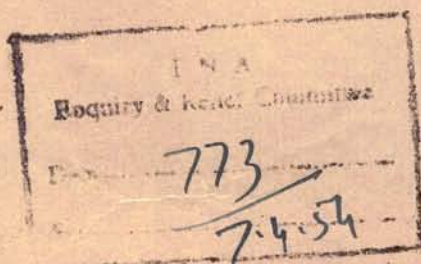
Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)

General J.K. Bhonsle,
Deputy Minister for Rehabilitation,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Copy to Col. Jag Dev Singh, Officer-in-Charge,
I.N.A. Relief and Enquiry Committee, 82, Daryaganj,
Delhi.



Shah Nawaz Khan
(SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)

New Delhi,
October 18, 1953.

My dear Chief Minister,

My attention has recently been drawn to a resolution passed by the West Bengal Legislature on May 2nd to the following effect:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Central Government be requested to take steps to investigate regarding the funds reported to be left by Netaji and his Azad Hind Government."

As a matter of fact, we have taken many steps to investigate this matter during the last few years. The investigation was started by me personally when I visited Malaya early in 1946. Since then many other steps have been taken both in Malaya and in Tokyo. I enclose a note giving such information as we possess on this subject.

I do not think any further investigation is needed or is possible.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Jawaharlal Nehru.

Dr B.C. Roy,
Chief Minister of West Bengal,
CALCUTTA.

23 (156)
Copy to FS, together with the file.

22-A

11

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Ref: 21-A -----

I am really surprised at the way some things are done. I have been taking a personal and continuous interest, ever since the beginning of 1946, in the funds belonging to the I.N.A. and the India Independence League. I have written many times about this to various people and yet no reference is made to me about this money. All that I had heard thus far was that the money in Malaya and some articles, etc. were recovered from Japan.

2. Apart from informing me of this sum, I might have been shown the courtesy of being consulted as to how it should be used. I am glad that the claim of the Indian Chamber of Commerce was rejected. I must say that the decision arrived at by External Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Education and our Embassy in Thailand was not particularly helpful. I do not myself understand the particular advantage of some scholar from India going to Bangkok every year. There are many other ways in which we could have utilised this money to better advantage, for instance in giving scholarships to students.

3. It is right that the money should be utilised to the benefit of Indians in South East Asia or more particularly Thailand. Perhaps some scholarships for Indians in Thailand to come to India for education might have been more suitable.

4. It would have been advisable I think to get the money transferred to India and not leave it in the custody of our Embassy in Bangkok.

5. As it has been decided to send Shri Ramachandran to deliver lectures at Bangkok this year, this might be agreed to. But I think the whole matter should be considered afresh by our Ministry and the Education Ministry.

(Sd.) J. Nehru
27.8.53

Cabinet Secretary

Copy forwarded to:-

The Ministry of E.A
The Ministry of Education.

J.L.
27.8.53

Min 19

21-A
12

CABINET SECRETARIAT

Subject: Deputation of Shri T.N. Ramachandran, Joint Director General of Archaeology to Bangkok for delivering a series of lectures.

The note at flag 'A' from the Ministry of Education was submitted to the Prime Minister for orders on the 24th July, 1953. The Prime Minister recorded the following minute thereon :-

"I do not understand the way these so-called deputations are organised. Every holiday trip is treated as a deputation on business and the normal daily allowances and other charges are given. I do not think this is at all proper.

I am agreeable to Mr. Ramachandran going and for the expenses to be paid from the funds apparently in the hands of the Indian Embassy in Bangkok. But I see no reason why any further payment should be made from India on this account. If, however, the Education Ministry thinks that this visit is important from the point of view of obtaining some artistic material, they should give him a lump sum. The question of daily allowance should not apply in such cases.

In the case of deputations of educationists going to conferences abroad, we have tried to introduce this principle with some success.

I am much surprised to learn that the Embassy of India in Bangkok is in possession of certain funds belonging to the former India Independence League and the Indian National Army. I have often dealt with such funds in Malaya and elsewhere. But at no time was I informed of these monies with our Embassy in Bangkok. I am, therefore, greatly surprised to learn this rather incidentally and casually. I should like to have full information about these funds both from the Education Ministry and, more especially, from External Affairs. Presumably External Affairs have this information. If not, they must get it from Bangkok. It is not at all clear to me why our Embassy in Bangkok should retain possession of these funds. Perhaps the funds cannot be transferred to India. If so, it should be considered how best to utilise them in Siam."

2. As directed by the Prime Minister in the last paragraph of his minute, the Ministry of External Affairs was asked to furnish full information regarding the funds belonging to the former India Independence League and the Indian National Army. That Ministry has now furnished the required information which is contained in its note at flag 'B'.

20-A
36-A

13 3. In view of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Prime Minister's minute, the Ministry of Education has decided to drop its proposal to depute Shri Ramachandran to certain places of archaeological interest in Thailand. That Ministry has now put up a revised Note for the Cabinet (at flag "C") in which it is proposed to depute Shri Ramachandran to Bangkok only for the purpose of delivering lectures. Since the Prime Minister has already accorded his approval to this proposal, the note is being circulated to Members of the Cabinet for an expression of opinion.

Sd/ R.P. Sachdev
27.8.53.

D/S.

Sd/ K.Ram.
27.8.53.

Secretary

Sd/ Y.N. Sukthankar.
27.8.53.

P.M.

126/CF/53
dt 29.8.

20A
14

Copy of a note forwarded by the Ministry of External Affairs under their No. D-3285-SEA/53, dated the 22nd August, 1953.

In November, 1949, our Legation (now Embassy) at Bangkok informed us that a large sum of money which originally belonged to the Indian National Army and the Indian Independence League (I.I.L) was lying in a bank in Thailand in a British-American Joint Trust Account. This money was confiscated by the British authorities after the surrender of the Japanese at the end of the last war. The Legation told us that the British authorities were willing to hand over this money on a specific request by us. On such a request being made by our Legation, at our instance, a sum of 2,58,822 Ticals (Rs 79638/-) (3.25 Ticals : Re 1/-) was transferred to the account of our Minister in Bangkok, and was deposited in the Indian Overseas Bank there at 3% interest per annum.

The question then arose as to how this amount could be utilised to the best advantage of the Indian community in Bangkok. An unexpected difficulty cropped up, as the Indian Chamber of Commerce laid a claim to 2,00,000 Ticals out of the total sum transferred to us, as representing the money which was confiscated from them by the British authorities. The Chamber of Commerce contended that this money was handed over to them by the I.I.L. for the purpose of affording relief to local Indians, but the British authorities did not accept this argument and had consistently refused to return the sum to the Chamber. When the Chamber learnt that the money was handed over to our Embassy, they made two attempts, in October 1950 and in September, 1951, to get the amount back. Their demands were referred to this Ministry, and, on both occasions, we rejected the Chamber's claims, and instructed our Embassy not to return the money, in view of the fact that sufficient proof was not forthcoming that the funds were given to the Chamber of Commerce for

welfare work.

Various suggestions, e.g. the grant of scholarships to Indian students, were considered by us in consultation with our Embassy and the Ministry of Education as to how the amount could be best utilised. Ultimately it was decided that the interest (app. Rs 2,400/- per annum) accruing from it could be utilised for sending a scholar from India to Bangkok every year to deliver lectures on any subject on Indo-Thai interest which is non-political in nature. The lectures were to be under the auspices of the Chulalongkorn University.

The Ministry of Education was requested to select an eminent scholar for the purpose and their first choice fell on Dr. R.C. Majumdar of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta. We offered him passage by air as well as free conveyance and free board while in Bangkok. A tentative programme for Dr. Majumdar was drawn up by our Embassy in consultation with the Chulalongkorn University and he was to reach Bangkok on the 3rd July. Unfortunately, at the last minute, Dr. Majumdar came up with a demand that he should be paid daily allowance in Calcutta and Bangkok, and refused to undertake the journey unless these demands were met. He also wanted to postpone the visit to September or October next. In the circumstances, his selection was cancelled and in his place the Ministry of Education chose another scholar, Mr. T.N. Ramachandran, who is the Joint Director of Archaeology. Our Embassy was informed and was requested to make the arrangements in consultation with the Chulalongkorn University.

The papers in this Ministry do not show that the presence of I.I.L. funds to the tune of nearly Rs 80,000/- in the custody of our Embassy in Bangkok was reported to the Prime Minister previously. This is regretted.

Apparently, no question of transferring these funds to India has so far been considered. But it may be pointed out that the present proposal of sending an Indian scholar on a lecture tour to Bangkok is to be financed entirely from the interest accruing from the main funds. It is, therefore, open to us to utilise the principal in a suitable manner for the benefit of Indians in South East Asia. We should, however, have to consult the feelings of the local Indian community in Thailand before embarking on any such scheme.

I do not understand the way these so-called deputations are organised. Every holiday trip is treated as a deputation on business and the normal daily allowances and other charges are given. I do not think this is at all proper.

I am agreeable to Mr. Ramachandran going and for the expenses to be paid from the funds apparently in the hands of the Indian Embassy in Bangkok. But I see no reason why any further payment should be made from India on this account. If, however, the Education Ministry thinks that this visit is important from the point of view of obtaining some artistic material, they should give him a lump sum. The question of daily allowance should not apply in such cases.

In the case of deputations of educationists going to conferences abroad, we have tried to introduce this principle with some success.

2. I am much surprised to learn that the Embassy of India in Bangkok is in possession of certain funds belonging to the former India Independence League and the Indian National Army. I have often dealt with such funds in Malaya and elsewhere. But at no time was I informed of these monies with our Embassy in Bangkok. I am, therefore, greatly surprised to learn this rather incidentally and casually. I should like to have full information about these funds both from the Education Ministry and, more especially, from External Affairs. Presumably External Affairs have this information. If not, they must get it from Bangkok. It is not at all clear to me why our Embassy in Bangkok should retain possession of these funds. Perhaps the funds cannot be transferred to India. If so, it should be considered how best to utilise them in Siam.

Sd/-

(J. Nehru)
24-7-1953.

Cabinet Secretary.

Copy to: External Affairs.

Mins. 11-15
Sl. No. 16-A

(Copy informally obtained from the Cabinet)

Ministry of Education.

Note for Cabinet.



The Embassy of India in Bangkok had suggested that the interest arising from the funds now in their custody belonging to the former Indian Independence League and the Indian National Army, should be utilized for meeting the expenses of sending out a scholar from India to give three non-political lectures on subjects of Indo-Thai interest. One lecture will be under the auspices of the Chulalongkorn University for post-graduate students and general public, another at the Siam Society and a third one again at the said University for under-graduate students. The air travel as well as the board and lodging expenses of the lecturer will be met out of the interest arising annually from the funds held by the Embassy. The duration of the lecture tour would be about ten days.

The proposal of the Indian Embassy has been accepted by the Government of India and it is proposed to send out this year Mr. T.N. Ramachandran, Joint Director General of Archaeology, New Delhi, on deputation to Thailand for this purpose.

It is felt that this opportunity should be availed of by Mr. Ramachandran to visit Lobapuri, Ayuthia and Sukhodaya which are within a radius of about 200 miles from Bangkok. Lobapuri, archaeologically speaking, is the seat of the style of art, called the School of Dwaravati, showing marked Indian influence closely allied to the Gupta Art of India. Ayuthia is the seat of the Sukhodaya Kingdom which witnessed a golden age of Buddhist art when masterpieces of Siamese art were developed under Indian and Ceylonese inspiration. Sukhodaya is famous for Jataka representations on stone as in Amraoti and Sanchi in India. As far as possible visits to these places will be fitted in between the dates of the

lectures at Bangkok. Should this not be possible due to any reason, Mr. Ramachandran will be asked to finish the visits to these places in a week's time after the lecture period.

The famous temples of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom are also not very far from Bangkok and a visit to these places is considered to be of use to assess Indian influence at these places. A visit to these two sites would require about 10 days.

It is proposed, therefore, that Mr. Ramachandran may be placed on deputation for a period not exceeding one month including the lecture period. The total expenditure is not expected to exceed about Rs. 3,000/- out of which about Rs. 2,000/- would be met by the fund referred to above held by the Indian Embassy, Bangkok.

The Minister for Education requests cabinet's approval for the proposal.

The exact dates of the visits will be decided in consultation with the Indian Embassy, Bangkok who have been requested to indicate the dates which would be suitable for the University and other authorities in Bangkok.

The Ministries of External Affairs and Finance have been consulted and agree to the proposal.

Humayun Kabir
(Humayun Kabir)
Additional Secretary.

7-1
20
PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT.

sent in original
I think you might send copies of Ramani's letter to Raghavan and Thivy and suggest to them that they might send their agreement to the proposal made by Thivy about handing over the balance of the Funds for scholarships and winding up the Trust. Tell them that I have agreed to this. You might inform Ramani that you are doing this.

You might also write to him about the present stage of the Nationality Legislation.

(J. Nehru)
1.5.52

Commonwealth Secretary.
No. 3774-P.M.

31

10/5

213611

7B
21
No. 3773-PM.

New Delhi,
May 1, 1952.

My dear Ramani,

not read in 8/2
Your letter of the 23rd April about
the Indian Relief Committee Funds.

I entirely agree with you that the
amounts standing over in these Funds should
be handed over for providing scholarship in
the University. I do not think it is
necessary for me to appoint a new Trustee
just for the sake of winding up the Trust.
You might, if you like, write to Raghavan
and Thivy. They are available, although
far away, and it is better to have their
consent recorded.

I do not know what draft of the Indian
Nationality Legislation you refer to. There
are drafts here but they have not been fina-
lized yet and so far as I know they have not
been sent to any one.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Jawaharlal Nehru.

Jc

Shri R. Ramani,
P.O. Box 372,
Hongkong Bank Chambers,
KUALA LUMPUR.

Copy to: Commonwealth Secretary
(Shri R.K. Nehru)

Indran

5A
20

147
5-12-73

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

.....

INA TREASURES AND THEIR HANDLING BY MESSRS IYER AND RAMAMURTHI.

Considerable quantities of gold and treasures were given to the late Shri Subhas Chandra Bose by Indians in the Far East as a part of their war effort. Shri Subhas Chandra carried a part of these "treasures" with him on his ill-fated flight from Saigon to Tokyo; the remaining "treasures" were left in Saigon.

According to photo-static copies of documents the following treasures are reported to have eventually reached Tokyo.

A. Recovered from plane crash		Kg.	gms.
(1)	Comparatively pure gold in two wooden boxes and a paper wrapper (weight include weight of gold and wooden box).	7	- 900
(2)	One packet gold mixed with Molten metal iron etc (weight includes weight of gold, metal iron etc. and paper wrapper.)	3	- 100
B. Brought by S.A. Iyer from Saigon		-	- 300
		11	- 300

In addition to the above Mr. S. A. Iyer handed over ₹ 20,000/-.

The above treasures were handed over in Tokyo to one Mr. Ramamurthy. Mr. Ramamurthy was on several occasions questioned by representatives of the Government of India regarding these treasures but he denied the existence of the treasures and it was only recently that he admitted that the treasures were in his possession.

These treasures have now been taken over by the Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo, and the list of treasures recovered by them is at slip 'C'. The weight of treasures now recovered is considerably more than the weight of treasures that are reported to have been handed over to Mr. Ramamurthy. Further the ₹ 20,000/- notes now handed over to Indian Liaison Mission are of current use. (The notes that were handed over to Mr. Ramamurthy in 1945 must have been those which are no longer current in Japan).

Mr. Iyer recently visited Japan with the ostensible purpose of investigating the present position in regard to the treasures. Mr. Iyer's activities in Japan have been rather suspicious and Mr. Chettur's views regarding this are as follows:-

"It appears that Netaji had with him in Saigon substantial quantity of gold ornaments and precious stones, but that he was allowed to carry only two suit-cases on the ill-fated flight. These two suit-cases must have carried very much more than has now been handed over to us, and even if allowances

are made.....

are made for the loss of the part of the treasure when the plane crashed, it seems obvious that what was retrieved was substantially very much more than has now been in our possession. What is still more important is that the bulk of the treasure was left in Saigon and it is significant from information that is available that on the 26th January, 1945, Netaji's collection weighed more than himself. In this context you will notice that Iyer came to Tokyo subsequently from Saigon and that his statement at that time was that "the gold is intact as I have brought it from Saigon, while cash is the balance after changing Piastras into Yens and meeting my expenses during my stay in Japan since August 22nd 1945". There is a party here who has seen Iyer of the contents of these few boxes. What happened to these boxes subsequently is a mystery as all that we have got from Iyer is 300 grams of gold and about 260 rupees gold worth of cash. You will, no doubt, draw your own conclusion from all this, but to me it would appear as if Iyer, apprehensive of the early conclusion of the Peace Treaty, came to Tokyo to divide the loot and to salve his and Murthy's conscience by the handing over of a small quantity to Government in the hope tht by doing so he would also succeed in drawing a red herring across the trail."

/the boxes in
Iyer's room and
who was also to
by

Suspicion regarding the improper disposal of the treasure is thickened by the comparative affluence in 1946 of Mr. Ramamurthy when all other Indian nationals in Tokyo were suffering the greatest hardships. Another fact which suggests that the treasures were improperly disposed of is a sudden blossoming out into an Oriental curio expert of Col. Figges, the Military Attache of the British Mission in Tokyo, and the reported invitation extended by the Colonel to Ramamurthy to settle down in U.K.

(R.D. Sathe)
1/11/1951

Itd. J. Nehru
5/11/1951

F.S,